

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 20, 26 and 32 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 20-37 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant(s) request(s) entry of this Rule 116 Response and Request for Reconsideration because the reference applied to the claims are newly cited in the final Office Action, and Applicants should be provided the opportunity to present patentability arguments and amendments in view thereof. Furthermore, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in §714.12 that "[a]ny amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered" (emphasis added). Moreover, §714.13 sets forth that "[t]he Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

By this amendment, independent claims 20, 26 and 32 each recite "display... the personal connection map graphically based on the secondary metadata retrieved", as shown in the last two lines of claim 20, for example. Dhillon "provides an online business service ... to enable individuals and organizations to link together contact databases that reside in multiple desktops applications and create a unified meta-database" (abstract, lines 2-6). Nothing has been cited that teaches or suggests "display... the personal connection map graphically" as recited above. Instead, Dhillon teaches a listing of contact information, as shown on in Figure 3 and not a "personal connection map" recited in the claims.

Additionally, each independent claim recites "extract... metadata of the persons from among electronic documents that include information about the person", as in lines 5-6 of claim 20 for example. Nothing has been cited or found in Dhillon that teaches or suggests this feature recited in the independent claims. Specifically, Fig. 3 and paragraph [0046] previously relied on by the Final Office Action on page 3, lines 3-5 merely shows a display of contacts with contact information and does not teach or suggest "electronic documents" as quoted above from claim 20, for example.

Therefore, it is submitted that independent claims 20, 26, and 32, as well as dependent claims 21-25, 27-31 and 33-37, are patentably distinguishable from Dhillon for the reasons discussed above.

In addition, claims 21, 27 and 33 each recite "when a closed loop is formed by N nodes and N links in the personal connection map, the personal connection map from which a first link representing a weakest personal connection among the N links is eliminated" (e.g., claim 21 at lines 2-4). The Office Action cited paragraphs [0009]-[0016], [0062]-[0063] and [0067]-[0070] of Dhillon as anticipating these features, but in paragraph [0071] Dhillon states "[a]s described above, setting the trust level to a high level (e.g., "inner circle") allows a user to see more information on the contacts for the member having such a high trust level" (lines 1-3). Thus, the "circle" used in the "inner circle" described by Dhillon is used to mean an intimate relationship, rather than describe a geometric structure and is not displayed visually. Nothing has been found in Dhillon that visually displays a "personal connection map" as recited in the claims, let alone a circle or ring form in the personal connection map. Thus, Dhillon lacks the disclosure of "closed loop is formed by N nodes and N links in the personal connection map" as recited in claims 21, 27 and 33 and further does not disclose the personal connection map from which a first link representing a weakest personal connection among the N links is eliminated" as recited above. Therefore, it is further submitted that claims 21, 27 and 33 are patentably distinguishable over Dhillon.

Claims 22, 28 and 34 each recite "the nodes are correlated with a time-line in the personal connection map" (e.g., claim 22 at lines 1-2). In rejecting these claims, the Office Action, at numbered paragraph 8, merely cites to FIG. 10. As stated above, Nothing has been found in Dhillon that visually displays a "personal connection map" as recited in the claims. Therefore, it is further submitted that claims 22, 28 and 34 are patentably distinguishable over Dhillon.

Claims 23-25, 29-31 and 35-37 recites one of "suitable venue" (e.g., claim 23 at lines 2-3), "effect on environment" (e.g., claim 24 at line 2) and "CO2 emission" (e.g., claim 25 at line 2). The Office Action simply states, at numbered paragraphs 10 and 11, that "a high trust level relationship" discussed in Dhillon anticipates these features of the claims. The Office Action, however, fails to show how "a high trust level relationship" anticipates either "suitable venue", "effect on environment" or "CO2 emission". Therefore, it is further submitted that claims 23-25, 29-31 and 35-37 are patentably distinguishable over Dhillon.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

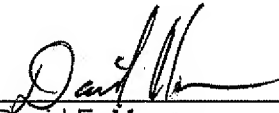
Serial No. 10/780,597

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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